

**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SEARCHING A N-BRANCH DATA  
STRUCTURE USING INFORMATION IN ENTRIES**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Techniques for searching a data structure using information in entries found in the data structure are provided. A key is determined for an entry in a data structure and an entry for that key is accessed. It is determined if that entry is the correct entry for the key. If not, information in the entry is used to determine a second entry for the key. It is then determined if the second entry is the correct entry for the key. If not, the process continues as described above until the correct entry is found.

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